

Lesson 7

Feeding the Thousands

Bible Lesson: Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14

Memory Verse: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. *Psalms 107:1*

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ◆ that many people came to hear Jesus
- ◆ that Jesus provided a crowd of people with food using a small lunch
- ◆ that Jesus can perform miracles because He is the Son of God

Prepare Materials:

- ◆ reward stickers

- ◆ waiter or waitress uniform and accessories
- ◆ restaurant items
- ◆ menus of fish and bread for each child
- ◆ snack of bread, goldfish crackers, and drink
- ◆ self-hardening clay in variety of colors
- ◆ small copies of Bible verse
- ◆ yarn or ribbon
- ◆ various colors of construction paper
- ◆ copies of basket, fish, and bread (pattern in Teacher Manual), 1 copy per student

BIBLE BACKGROUND

To be added.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome with Love

Dress as a waiter or waitress. Make menus of fish and bread for each child. Role play that the classroom is a restaurant and the children are the guests. Prior to class, set the classroom up as a nice restaurant. Have bread, gold fish, crackers, and a drink ready to serve.

Greet each child with a smile, welcoming them to the restaurant (use a name of choice). Escort each child to the table and give each a menu. Ask the children if they have ever been someplace where there was a big, big crowd of people. Ask them if they have ever thought what it would be like to feed all those people. How much money would it take to feed them? Tell the children that in today's story they will hear how many, many people were fed with

just a small lunch.

Use a Learning Center

REVIEW CENTER

ASK some of the following questions for review. Use the objects and pictures in the room for visual references. A game could be played by seeing who could answer the most questions in an orderly manner. Use your discretion, if a game is to be played. Stickers could be awarded for each question a child answers. Remember to review the lessons and Bible verses from the first quarter also.

- ◆ What was special about the baby Gabriel told Mary she would have? (He would be God's own Son.)

- ◆ To what town did Mary and Joseph travel to be counted? (Bethlehem)
- ◆ After Jesus was born, where did Mary place Him? (in the manger)
- ◆ What did the angel tell the shepherds? (Jesus the Savior is born. Go to Bethlehem and see the Baby Jesus.)
- ◆ What did the shepherds do when they saw Jesus? (They worshiped Him and told others about Jesus' birth.)
- ◆ Who came from the East to worship Jesus? (wisemen)
- ◆ How did they find Jesus? (They followed a star.)
- ◆ Did Jesus come as an earthly king? (No. He was king of heaven and earth.)
- ◆ What did the wisemen do when they found Jesus? (worshiped Him and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh)
- ◆ From whose fishing boat did Jesus teach? (Simon Peter's)
- ◆ Had Peter and his friends caught any fish during the night? (no)
- ◆ What did Jesus tell the men to do? (Go into the deep water and throw in your fishing nets to catch some fish.)
- ◆ Did Peter do what Jesus said? (Yes, even though they had caught nothing the entire night.)
- ◆ What happened when the fishermen threw their nets into the water? (Their nets were filled with fish.)
- ◆ What happened to the nets? (They started to break.)
- ◆ Some men came to help with all the fish. What happened when they pulled the nets into the boats? (Both boats began to sink because they were so full.)
- ◆ What did Jesus tell the men when they finally came to shore? (Jesus told the men to leave their boats and be fishers of men.)
- ◆ What did this mean? (Jesus was calling them to be His disciples. They would be telling people about Jesus.)
- ◆ Did the men do as Jesus said? (Yes. The men left everything and followed Jesus.)
- ◆ Who was Lazarus? (a friend of Jesus)
- ◆ What happened to Lazarus? (He became very sick and died.)
- ◆ Was Jesus sad? (Yes. He cried.)
- ◆ Jesus went to the tomb. What did He tell the people to do? (Remove the stone from the tomb's entrance.)
- ◆ After Jesus had prayed to God, what did He call out? ("Lazarus, come out!")
- ◆ Did Lazarus come out of the tomb? (Yes)
- ◆ Jesus was followed by many people

wherever He went. One day He was at a house which was crowded with many, many people. Four men wanted their crippled friend to see Jesus. How did the men get their crippled friend into the house to see Jesus? (They took him to the roof, removed some of the roof, and carefully lowered the friend on his bed into the house.)

- ◆ What did Jesus say to the crippled man? (Your sins are forgiven.)
- ◆ Did Jesus heal the crippled man? (Yes. He told the man to get up, take his bed, and go home.)
- ◆ Did the man do as Jesus said? (Yes, and he praised God all the way home.)

PRETEND CENTER - WELCOME TO THE RESTAURANT

Before the review center, take the children's "orders." While they are waiting for their food to arrive, do the review center. Once done with the review, serve the children their food of bread, fish, and a drink. Ask the children if they ever go out to eat. Talk about the different kinds of food available, the cost of the food, and the amount of people served at the variety of restaurants.

Ask the children what the largest number of people they have ever seen has been. Compare these crowds with the number in the lesson. Help the children visualize the large number of people. Compare the crowd with the population of a town or building/stadium with which all the children are familiar.

Ask the children what they would do if a large number of people needed food and they were supposed to feed these people. Ask them how much money they would need to buy all the food needed. Have them guess how much food they would need to feed all the people. Discuss the fact that it would cost a lot of money to feed a large number of people, and it would take a lot of food. It would also take a large number of restaurants to accommodate a great crowd of people if the children wanted to feed the people there.

Tell the children that in today's lesson there are thousands of people who need food. Jesus has told His disciples to feed the people, but how? They do not have enough money or food. What are they going to do?

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Sing the Message

Sing some of the following songs:

"I am Trusting You, Lord Jesus" (theme hymn)

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" p.559 Ambassador Hymnal.

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

"There Were Twelve Disciples" p.26 Salvation Songs Favorites.

"God Is So Good." p.12 Songs of God and Me.

"Rejoice in the Lord Always" p.52 Little Ones Sing Praise.

"Isn't He Wonderful?" p.98 Salvation Songs Favorites.

Pray the Message

It is very important to include prayer in your lesson. Ask the children to sit quietly and to fold their hands. Remind them that prayer is talking to God, so we want to show respect by sitting quietly.

Pray for the following:

- ◆ Thank God for the day, the children, the church, and the Sunday school.
- ◆ Thank God for giving us His creation to enjoy.
- ◆ Thank God for being the one, true almighty God.
- ◆ Thank God for His holy Word, the Bible, that teaches us about Jesus.
- ◆ Thank God for sending Jesus, His Son, to save us from our sins.
- ◆ Pray for open hearts and minds as we study today's lesson.

Learn the New Words

You can either introduce these words before reading the Bible lesson and/or highlight them as the lesson is read. Ask and explain the meaning as you come to them in the lesson.

miracle a wonder, a supernatural act

crowd a large number of people

Introduce the Message

OPEN your Bible to the lesson text. It is

important that the children know the lessons are true and that they come from the Bible. The lessons are not just stories.

Still dressed as a waiter or waitress, tell the children that they need to move so the table can be ready for more customers. Escort the children to an open area of the classroom and invite them to sit on the floor. Thank them for being such good guests and for eating at your restaurant.

Sit down with the children and tell them that you have heard there is a large crowd of people near the town. It sounded like the people were hungry and needed food. Tell them that you don't think you can feed all the people. The restaurant might run out of food and some people might not get to eat.

Pretend someone is at the door. Go to the door and have a conversation with a pretend messenger. The messenger is telling about the feeding of the five thousand men. Come back to the children. Act excited. Tell the children that you have heard about something wonderful and amazing. Tell the children that all the people have been fed using only a small lunch. Do they want to hear how?

Read/Tell the Message

See student leaflet.

Reinforce the Message

ASK the following questions:

- ◆ How many people came to see Jesus in today's lesson? (about 5000 men plus women and children)
- ◆ What did Jesus tell the disciples to do when they told Jesus to send the people away to buy food? (He told them to give the people something to eat.)
- ◆ How did the disciples respond to this command? (They said that they didn't have enough money to buy food for all the people.)
- ◆ A little boy gave his lunch to the disciples to use to feed the people. What was in his lunch? (five small loaves of bread and two fish)
- ◆ Was that enough food to feed all the

- people? (no)
- ◆ Jesus had everybody sit down. He thanked God for the food and started giving the food to the people. Was there enough food? (Yes! It was a miracle!)
 - ◆ When the people were full, Jesus told His disciples to pick up all the leftovers. How much food was left? (12 baskets)

- ◆ What did the amazed people say about Jesus? (that Jesus really was the Son of God)

SING "Isn't He Wonderful?" p.98 Salvation Songs Favorites.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memorize the Bible Verse

TEACH Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.
Psalm 107:1

SAY the verse for the children. Say it again. Let the children echo a phrase after you have said it.

REPEAT the verse again, allowing the children say the verse individually.

Do the Activities Together

ACTIVITY 1 - LEAFLET – Lunch for a Bunch

Hold up one copy of the leaflet activity page so all the students can see. Look at the rebus pictures and talk about each picture so that the children will know what each picture means. Then slowly read the poem, pausing when you get to each picture and allowing the children to say the word that describes this picture. Then continue reading until the next picture, etc.

Give the students their own leaflet and help them find the correct page. Now read the story poem again and guide them in following the pictures. Do this a couple of times so that they become very familiar with the pictures and story. Tell them to have a family member read the story to them at home and follow the pictures

Recite the memory verse.

ACTIVITY 2 – Fish and Bread Basket

Using self-hardening molding clay, instruct the children to form a basket, two fish, and five loaves of bread. Use different colored clay, such as brown for the basket, blue for the fish,

and yellow for the bread.

Help the children shape their baskets, fish, and loaves. Demonstrate how to mold them by making one yourself as the children make theirs, doing one step at a time. Let the children retell the story as they work. Allow time for the clay to harden. The craft may not be ready to send home until next week.

Give each child a small copy of the memory verse. Attach the verse to the basket handle using yarn or ribbon or place it in the basket with the fish and bread. Recite the verse with the children.

Tell the children that their basket should remind them of Jesus' miracle of feeding thousands of people with a small lunch. Jesus provides for all our needs!

ACTIVITY 3 - ART ACTIVITY - Plentiful Basket

Give each child a piece of colored construction paper with the memory verse written on the top half of the sheet (horizontally). Also give them a basket pattern, two fish, and five loaves of bread. Let the children color the basket, fish, and loaves (patterns in Teacher Manual). Have them retell the story as they color. Ask questions about the Bible verse and lesson as they color.

Show the children how to put glue on just the outside edges of the sides and bottom of the basket. Glue the edges of the basket to the construction paper, making sure the top is open so the loaves and fish can be put inside. Allow it to dry.

Let the children place their loaves and fish in the basket. Tell the children that this basket reminds us of the small lunch Jesus used to

feed thousands of people. When they look at the basket, they should remember that Jesus provides for all our needs.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Teach and Sing

SING the first two stanzas of the theme hymn. Begin teaching the third stanza. Ask the children who gives salvation and makes them free from sin.

SING “Isn’t He Wonderful?” p.98 Salvation Songs Favorites.

REVIEW the songs sung in this lesson.

Memory Verse Review

RECITE the memory verse one more time with the students before they go.

Pray Together

Have the children sit quietly and fold their hands. Ask them to name some of the mighty things God has done in the lessons they have learned so far. Tell them that it is good to give thanks to God for all His mighty deeds. Have them close their eyes. Pray. Thank God for His mighty deeds by naming the ones the children mentioned and any others they have talked about during the lessons. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Thank God for allowing Jesus to do the many miracles so that we can see His Glory. Thank God that we can read about His mighty power in the Bible. Thank God for the Bible. Pray for the week to come.





